



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated
Collectors Club

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LSCC Members Gather at the June 2008 Baltimore Coin Convention

Sixteen Liberty Seated Collectors Club members met on Friday morning, June 6, 2008, at the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention. Club Treasurer/Secretary, Len Augsburg, hosted the meeting and led a discussion of upcoming club events and information of interest on Liberty Seated coinage.

Member introductions started the meeting followed by show and tell. Len displayed his set of ANA gold, silver, and copper restrikes of the steam coinage medals, one of five sets known. Gene Gardner passed around his beautiful 1857 PCGS MS65 half dollar. John Frost passed around an 1891-O weird mintmark quarter; see the article in this issue. Len told the audience that *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #102 will be out before the ANA and includes articles on Christian Gobrecht, Al Blythe's half dime collection, a story of an 1854-O huge "O" quarter, seated patterns, and

seated quarter varieties. Information of the upcoming Trade Dollar census will be included with the mailing of the *GJ. Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volume #5 is in the process of being converted for print-on-demand publishing. More on that later. Heritage is publishing a book on the Dr. Julius Korein collection of Gobrecht Dollars; look for an announcement. Gerry Kochel announced his collection of half dimes will be sold at the ANA auction.

Len mentioned that the club officers were soliciting feedback from members on whether we should continue with color covers for the *Gobrecht Journal* and that good, colorful seated coin photographs were needed if so. Please provide your feedback to any of the club officers listed on the last page of this issue.

The formal meeting adjourned and many members remained to talk seated coinage.

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June 6, 2008 Baltimore, Maryland LSCC regional meeting attendees

The *E-Gobrecht* is an award winning electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included at the end.



Auction News

by
Jim Gray

While there were three major auctions in June, there was a distinct lack of relevant Seated coinage.

The Bowers & Merena June Baltimore sale did not contain a single Seated coin of interest.

The Stack's Bergstrom Collection featured an 1870-CC half in VF-25 with a rim bump and BER missing for \$4,600. An 1872-CC in XF-45 went for \$862 while a VG-8 1878-CC sold for \$575.

Three impaired 1855 dollars in AU-55, AU-50, and VF-30 sold for \$2,300, \$1,495 and \$2,070, respectively. A cleaned and granular XF-40 1871-CC dollar managed \$5,750, while a sharp and nicely toned XF-45 1872-CC dollar with some obverse pit-

ting realized \$6,325. A duplicate 1872-CC in F-15 but harshly cleaned only realized \$1,840, while a nicely toned VF-30 1873-CC with BE very weak soared to \$16,100. An 1878-CC trade dollar in XF-40 or finer but polished and shiny sold for \$2,300.

The Heritage Summer FUN sale presented a very nice 1846 dime in AU-58 and tied for the best certified by NGC that sold for an amazing \$23,000.

An original 1854-O, huge O quarter in VG-8 realized \$1,035 and a cleaned and damaged AG-3 1870-CC still managed \$4,312.

A cleaned 1872-CC half in XF only sold for \$805. A very nicely toned and well struck 1855 dollar in MS-62 rang the bell for \$10,925.



**Reminder:
The Trade
Dollar census
is coming!**

**1878-CC
Trade Dollar**





The Annual LSCC Meeting is this Month!

**Baltimore, Maryland
July 31, 2008
World's Fair of Money
ANA's 117th
Anniversary Convention**

Room 318, Baltimore Convention Center

9-10 AM, informal session afterwards

NOTE: THIS IS A ROOM CHANGE! The ANA Committee changed our location from room 312 to the much larger room 318. The LSCC officers believe the room was changed to accommodate the expanded ceremonies to be held at this meeting.

The meeting's agenda includes:

- Club activities update
- 2008 Hall of Fame inductee award presentations.
For the first time, two individuals will be in-

ducted into the LSCC Hall of Fame at the LSCC's annual meeting. At the 2007 annual LSCC membership meeting, the membership approved the proposal for establishing a club Hall of Fame and also the guidelines for inducting members. During the past year, the five members of the selection committee evaluated nominations and unanimously approved the induction of two individuals into the 2008 Hall of Fame. The names of those two individuals has not been publicly announced but will be in a formal presentation at the 2008 LSCC annual membership meeting. Please try to attend and congratulate these awardees.

- 2007 Ahwash Award presented to Gerry Fortin.
- Surprise!

Please try to attend this meeting. This is our annual meeting and a good chance to meet and greet others with your same interest. Please pass this notice on to others. You don't have to be a club member to attend. Any and all visitors are welcome!



LSCC Member Photos

John McCloskey (above) studying Len Augsburger's awesome quarter collection. Len (at left) with a portion of his massive numismatic library. If you would like your photo featured here, send a digital photograph to the Editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.



1891-O quarter dollar with an interesting mintmark

At June's LSCC regional meeting in Baltimore, John Frost passed around an altered 1891-"O" quarter. He says "I've had some more fun showing my 'technically not 'added O' quarter" at a local show in New England. Anyway, you may want to give the *E-Gobrecht* readers a good chuckle." Here are some photographs of the obverse, reverse, and close up of "mint mark" for the readers to study. Note, the "mintmark" was formed by removing the surrounding surfaces.



Best Cherry Pick I've Heard Lately!

It was reported to me that an XF 1849 dramatically doubled date half dollar was purchased unattributed on the bourse floor of the June 2008 Baltimore Coin Convention for \$70. Congratulations to that vigilant eyed collector and new owner of a rare half dollar variety. [Editor]

LSCC Statistics

Current paid membership: 596 members, an increase of 4 since last month.

Current number of *E-Gobrecht* Subscribers: 385 including new subscriber since last month, Rick Irons.



**Mike
Lloyd's
1854-O
Half Dollar
Variety
Reference
now avail-
able!**



Many long time club members may remember that in the mid-1990's Mike Lloyd spent considerable effort studying and documenting the die marriages of 1854-O half dollars. He made copies of his 116 page research available to others at a small cost. Additional copies were lost during a move and only recently has he made his study again available. He made a few updates and a .pdf version is now available for the asking from Bill Bugert at wb8cpy@arri.net. Just send me a request and I will email it to you.

**Does anyone know
what this is?**



This brass uniface of a the reverse of a seated half dollar was displayed at the June 2008 Baltimore Convention. It was passed around to various club members and seated half dollar experts and no one seemed to know exactly what it is. Can you help? It appears to be of a type 1 reverse but inside edges of all the letters and all the dentils are tapered. It has various lumps notably on the U(NITED), O(F), and in the field below the left wing. Any ideas?



Seated Halves with Small Letters Reverse: A New Perspective?

by Joe Brame, LSCC No. 2121

It is well recognized that the Seated Halves struck from 1839 – 1842 are differentiated from the next type by small letters reverses vs. large letters reverses. As noted by Wiley & Bugert in their learned treatise, the “Redrawn Reich Eagle on both small letters reverse and large letters reverse are very similar in basic design.” The subject of this brief article is to analyze the differences between the eagles on these two types.

With the exception of two halves struck in New Orleans in the subject time-frame, all such coins have the small letters reverse. New Orleans struck a Seated Half in 1840 with an 1838 medium letters reverse (no mintmark), and New Orleans struck Seated Halves in 1842 with both small letter and large letter reverses. But all coins struck with the small letters reverse have what I will call the Trim Eagle reverse, since the eagle on the small letters reverse appears a little more streamlined.

Notable differences between the two eagles (small letters reverse vs. large letters reverse) are as follows, with the Trim Eagle being first referenced:

- 1) As noted by Wiley & Bugert, eight horizontal stripes on the shield vs. nine.
- 2) Eagle’s mouth is more closed vs. more open.
- 3) Eagle’s neck is more slender vs. broader.
- 4) Curve of top line of shield closely matches curve of top of eagle’s left wing vs. non-match.
- 5) Both wing tips come to a point of a

single feather vs. rounded off wing tips.

- 6) Inside feather line of eagle’s right wing shows stepped outline of feathers vs. more straight feather line.
- 7) Eagle’s right wing shows more separation from uppermost olive leaf vs. right wing nearly touches that leaf.
- 8) Smaller arrowheads/olive leaves vs. larger arrowheads/olive leaves.
- 9) One set of vertical lines in shield terminates at bottom point of shield vs. termination left of bottom point of shield
- 10) Eagle’s claws curl in much more tightly vs. much more open.

If you place a small letter coin side-by-side with a large letter coin, the differences between the two eagles really jump out at you. Try it and I think you’ll agree. Certainly, none of the above impacts the rarity or value of any of the small letters (Trim Eagle) coins, but the different eagles are certainly noteworthy. This subject may well have been previously addressed by others. Further, it must be noted that this article is based only on a study of a few coins in the author’s collection. As always, comments and critiques are most welcome.

Perhaps this short article will prompt further interest in a study of the two different eagle reverses. Even if this only promotes discussion among friends over cock-tails – mission accomplished. And thank you for reading.



Subscriber Correspondence

From **Dr. Eugene Bruder**: I would like the members of LSCC to know that I now have an active website at www.typecoins.com that will allow collectors to purchase coins in my inventory. I try to have a varied selection of Liberty Seated coins including many varieties and better dates in all series. A also set up at about 30 shows a year where the coins can be seen in person. I will be adding coins as fast as I can, with pictures to come on the better coins. I am a one man operation, so it will take some time before everything is in place. Dr. Eugene Bruder, Numismatist, LSCC #511

From **Jsmith1016**: The 1875-cc dime *[depicted in last month's issue of the E-Gobrecht]* appears to be Fortin's F107. *[Editor, I forwarded this to Jason Feldman and he replied...]*

From **Jason Feldman**: Thanks for forwarding the email. It is a much later die state of a F-107 probably a 107b, 107a depending on die state. I have found one coin this nice and 2 in total. One would think with such an obvious error many have surfaced but thus far almost none.

From **Jason Feldman**: I found the observation on Seated Varieties very interesting. While I have only focused on collecting Seated by varieties for a few years, I have found many new coins and unknown die states. I can only imagine how collecting will change over the next 20 years. I imagine I will remember the days I could easily pick varieties from dealers with ease. Fortunately I have the time and ability to retain much of what I find selling off a few coins here and there.

From **Dick Osburn**: We've just returned from The Whitman Expo at the Baltimore Convention Center. Attendance was a little off compared to the spring and fall versions of the show, but the bourse floor was still enthusiastic. We had crowds at the table during most of the public hours. The strong demand for scarce and rare dates of early US type continued. As with several recent shows our strongest sellers were seated dollars, but there were numerous collectors looking for all series. The most frequently heard comment was that it was tough to find any good dates or varieties on the floor. The supply continues to dry up.

The Bowers & Merena auction was a bit weak. There just wasn't much of my kind of stuff. Prices were subdued, but it was probably because of the lack of good material.

From **RJH in Bethlehem**: Thanks, Bill...for sending a copy of Lloyd's work. He obviously expended a long many years on 1854-O Half-Dollars to produce this work (which is not unlike yours and Randy's effort, I'm sure).

I intended to purchase a copy of Lloyd's book back in 1998/99, but failed to do so...another 'I don't need it now, I'll do it later' piece of procrastination. If a copy is available, I'll gladly remit the amount due in order to have one.

It seems strange, but I only accumulate L.S. Half-Dollars, not collect them. But, aside from certain scarce dates, I occasionally pick up an off-beat HD that has appeal...such as the '54-O, Big Foot (Lloyd 204/5E), cleaned, but a decent Fine, for \$35 Bucks.

Ironically, you stated in March's LSCC meeting about your attempt to locate Lloyd. Now during the June '08 LSCC meeting, you not only found Lloyd, but also received his brand-new 2nd Edition/1st Printing! ...AND...of course...I bring a '54-O to meeting for attribution by you and Randy. It's amazing how all of these weird events came together, unbeknownst to one another!! Incidentally, My Bride (Shirley) and I traipsed over 80 o/o of the bourse, including visits to major/minor Liberty Seated dealers, and saw NO '54-o Big Foot HD anywhere. Yes Sir, a nice find, indeed! Again thanks for your generosity, as well as Randy's and Mike Lloyd's.

From **Keith Scott**: I picked up a 1st edition of ML Beistle (green) on EBay after being inspired by the GJ article in Dec 2007. The effort of research in a pre-Internet era was amazing, and I was reminded of a quote that describes modern Researchers as "standing on the shoulders of Giants". I was also reminded of the fact that a new SL Half reference book is in demand. Perhaps an update in loose-leaf form might stave off the Hords of SL Fanatics.



Information Wanted

I'm currently working on the large task of cataloging the known seated half dime errors known to collectors by date/mintmark. If you own any seated half dime errors, please send me an e-mail at the address below and provide the following information to make this survey as accurate as possible:

- Date and Mintmark of coin
- Type of error
- Grade
- Certification service if graded
- Photographs of both sides of the coin (if possible)

Information about any known errors including blank planchets is welcomed. The results will be published in an article at the end of this year. Dennis Hengeveld, qeagle88@gmail.com

Notice: Availability of past issues of the E-Gobrecht

Through the generosity of Gerry Fortin, the previous issues of the *E-Gobrecht* are readily accessible on his seated dime web-site at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>

Advertisements

Rare Coins for Sale: Since 1979, David Lawrence Rare Coins has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our web site for 6,000+ offerings of U.S. & World coins, currency, and stamps for sale and auction. We are also interested in buying or selling your coins at auction. <http://www.davidlawrence.com> or phone 1-800-776-0560, members: PNG, ANA (life), FUN, CSNS

Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies

Wanted: Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ pcmdmp@msn.com or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter.

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted: I am

looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Wanted to Buy: Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: www.vtcoins.com, email: puro@vtcoins.com, phone: 1-800-655-1327.

Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted: I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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LSCC Pledge

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the Editor, *E-Gobrecht*.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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Mark your calendar !

- 35th Anniversary of the LSCC - 2008
- LSCC annual meeting at the ANA Convention, Baltimore Convention Center - July 31st, 9 AM, Room 318 (*Note new location of this meeting.*)
- *Gobrecht Journal* issue #102 postal mailed - July 2008
- LSCC voting of the 2008 Ahwash award - September 2008
- LSCC voting for the best article in issues #76 to #100 - September 2008
- LSCC voting for the James B. Pryor Award - September 2009
- LSCC Trade Dollar census - 2009